## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 /058 W
-------082030Z 075564 /43

R 081743Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY LISBON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0460 INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EINV, PO

SUBJ: INVESTOR DISPUTE: LATRIQUE

REF: (A) STATE 49129, (B) LISBON 1399, (C) STATE 16770, (D) LISBON 1694

- 1. COMMATT RELAYED INFORMATION REF A TO HARPSOE. HARPSOE ENCOURAGED AT VALE APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE BUT STILL STRESSES NEED FOR QUICK PRODUCTION START-UP. HE AGREES THAT DEBT TO BANCO ESPIRITO SANTO MAY BE GREATEST OBSTACLE TO RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE AND WILL MAKE INQUIRIES AT FINANCE MINISTRY.
- 2. HARPSOE REPORTS HIS PLANS TO GO TO U.S. NOW SHELVED FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS, PARTIALLY BECAUSE NEW OBSTRUCTIONIST ATTITUDE OF PORTUGUESE EXPORT PROMOTION FOUNDATION (FFE) PREVENTS ANY TYPE OF DETAILED PROPOSAL TO BE DISCUSSED WITH VALE. FFE IS INVOLVED BECAUSE IT HAS OUTSTANDING UNCOLLECTED DEBT FROM LATRIQUE (U.S.) AND BECAUSE IT PARTICIPATES IN PROMOTION AND FINANCING OF EXPORTS OF CONSET. FFE, ACCORDING TO HARPSOE, CANNOT MAKE ANY DECISIONS NOW BECAUSE IT IS IN THROES OF REORGANIZATION. (COMMENT: FFE HAS BEEN IN THROES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF REORGANIZATION FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR.) HARPSOE REQUEST-ING APPOINTMENT WITH FFE PRESIDENT AND SEEKING SUPPORT OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN TRADE CELESTE. ACCORDING HARPSOE, CELESTE STATES HE IS ALMOST POWERLESS TO INFLUENCE EVENTS AT FFE. HARPSOE PROMISED CONTACT EMBASSY AFTER DISCUSSION WITH FFE PRESIDENT AND FINANCE MINISTERY.

3. COMMATT RECEIVED CALL FROM ESPIRITO SANTO BANK (BESCL) PROVIDING FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT DEBT. BANK REPORTS LATRIQUE OWES IT 13 MILLION ESCUDOS IN UNPAID EXPORT CREDITS AND ABOUT 23 MILLION ESCUDOS FOR BANK GUARANTEES TO GOP CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES. THERE IS ALSO A 1,400,000 OUT-STANDING DEBT FROM 1965 FOR ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT AND START-UP EXPENSES. BANK REPRESENTATIVE STATES THAT BESCL) PREPARING DOCUMENTATION FOR SUIT AGAINST LATRIQUE IN NEW YORK. HE STATES THAT BESCL NOT INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING WITH VALE, BUT THINKS VALE SHOULD DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE. BANK REP POINTEDLY CITED TO COMMATT THAT VALE DEBT IS LARGE, LONG-TIME OVERDUE, AND THE WORKERS COMMITTEE IS VERY INTERESTED IN CASE.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL DISCUSS SITUATION FURTHER WITH BESCL AT HIGHER LEVEL.  ${\sf CARLUCCI}$ 

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## Message Attributes

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To: STATE Type: TE

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